

Message Text

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FOL RPT NEW DELHI 4312 ACTION SECSTATE INFO KATHMANDU BOMBAY
CALCUTTA MADRAS 25 MAR 77 QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM

SUBJECT: TIBETAN GROUP/HUMAN RIGHTS LETTER

REF: STATE 065667

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER PRESENTED TO FIRST SECRETARY JOHN
VOUGHT DURING CALL BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TIBETANPEOPLES
RANGZEN MOVEMENT AT EMBASSY ON MARCH 25, 1976.

BEGIN TEXT.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, WHITE HOUSE...
DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

MOST NATIONS IN THE WORLD APPROACH THEIR FOREIGN POLICIES WITH
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A FAIR AMOUNT OF CYNICISM AND TOTAL SELF INTEREST. YOUR STAND
ON THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS HAS NOT ONLY GIVEN A FLICKER OF
HOPE TO ALL THE DOWN-TRODDEN AND OPPRESSED IN THE WORLD BUT ALSO
ELEVATED AMERICA TO A NEW GREATNESS AND POSITION OF WORLD
LEADERSHIP.

WE KNOW THAT YOUR CONCERN FOR THE OPPRESSED IS NOT ONLY A VERBAL

ONE AND THEREFORE, WE THE TIBETAN PEOPLE IN EXILE FEEL CONFIDENT THAT YOU WILL SUPPORT OUR JUST CAUSE.

PRIOR TO THE INVASION OF THE RED CHINESE ARMY IN 1949 WE TIBETANS HAVE BEEN A FREE PEOPLE. WE BELIEVED IN PEACE AS WE WERE A BUDDHIST NATION, AND WE ACTIVELY PRACTISED IN EVERY WAY TO ACHIEVE THE BUDDHIST IDEALS OF PEACE AND FREEDOM.

OURS WAS AN ANCIENT SOCIETY, HAVING CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS TOTALLY DIFFERENT TO THAT OF YOUR COUNTRY AND OTHER NATIONS OF THE WORLD. LIFE WAS RUGGED IN OUR LAND BUT IT MADE US STRONG AND SELF RELIANT AND EVEN MORE IT TAUGHT US THE MEANING OF HAPPINESS AND OF FREEDOM. THERE WERE NOT MANY LUXURIES, BUT EVERYONE HAD ENOUGH TO KEEP HIMSELF ALIVE AND HAPPY. OUR GOVT AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS WERE PRIMARILY BUILT AROUND BUDDHISM AND THOUGH SOMEWHAT SLOW AND ARCHAIC MANAGED TO GOVERN WISELY OVER 6 MILLION INDIVIDUALISTIC, FREE-THINKING AND TOUGH PEOPLE.

YET IN THE NAME OF 'PROGRESS' AN ALIEN POWER HAS, WITHOUT PROVOCATION, BRUTALLY INVADDED AND RAVAGED OUR LAND. THIS HAS BEEN BLUNTLY STATED IN MR. EDGAR SNOW'S BOOK 'THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER (RED CHINA TODAY)'.

"TIBET IS HELD BY A LARGE ARMY AND PROBABLY WILL FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.....IT WOULD HAVE BEEN COMFORTING TO OUR CONSCIENCES TO THINK THAT ONE GREAT NATION MIGHT BE SPARED THE EXPERIENCE WHICH OUR MACHINE CIVILIZATION HAS FLUNG ACROSS THE ENTIRE EARTH, BUT HISTORY ADMITS NO EXCEPTIONS TO ITS LAW OF CHANGE. NOW THE TIBETANS TOO, MUST LEARN TO ADAPT OR PERISH".
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MUST WE PERISH FOR DESIRING TO BE OURSELVES? DOES FREEDOM ONLY BELONG TO NATIONS WITH SUPERIOR WEAPONS AND TECHNOLOGY?

MR. PRESIDENT, WE TIBETANS FOLLOW NEITHER THE WESTERN STYLE OF SOCIETY NOR THE COMMUNIST WAY. WE DO NOT WISH TO GIVE UP OUR TIME HONOURED WAYS IN ORDER TO GET THE HELP AND SUPPORT OF ANY BIG POWER. YET WE DESIRE TO HAVE LIFE AND FREEDOM FOR OUR PEOPLE AND COUNTRY.

IS THAT ASKING TOO MUCH?

DESPERATE OF CHINESE ATTEMPT AT GENOCIDE WE REVOLTED IN 1959. THOUSANDS OF CHINESE SOLDIERS DIED AND MANY DIVISIONS WERE NEEDED BEFORE OUR REVOLT WAS FINALLY QUELLED. YET THINGS DID NOT END THERE, MANY OF US STILL KEPT ON FIGHTING IN TIBET AND HIS HOLINESS THE DALAI LAMA, NOW IN EXILE, HAS BROUGHT THE REMNANTS OF OUR SHATTERED NATION TOGETHER TO PREPARE FOR THE DAY WHEN WE WOULD BE STRONG ENOUGH TO RETAKE OUR LAND. YES, WE STILL FIGHT

INSIDE AND OUTSIDE TIBET FOR WHAT WE BELIEVE AND KNOW TO BE RIGHT-
FULLY OURS.

AT PRESENT IN NEW DELHI SEVEN TIBETANS ARE ON A HUNGER-STRIKE
TILL DEATH. THEY DEMAND THAT THE UN ACT ON ITS THREE RESOLU-
TIONS ON TIBET, PASSED IN 1959, 1961 AND 1965. THESE PEOPLE ARE
DETERMINED TO HOLD FAST TO THEIR VIGIL DESPITE THE CONSEQUENCES.

AMERICA HAS ALWAYS SUPPORTED THE QUESTION OF TIBET IN THE UN AND
ARE ETERNALLY GRATEFUL THAT IT HAS DONE SO. WE ASK AMERICA'S
BOON ONCE AGAIN AND REQUEST YOU TO MAKE THE UN IMPLEMENT ITS
PAST RESOLUTIONS ON TIBET.

'FOR RANGZEN'

YOURS FAITHFULLY,
(LODI GYALTSEN GYARI)
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PRESIDENT,
TIBETAN YOUTH CONGRESS,
FOR: T.P. R. M. - INDIA
END TEXT.
SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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